

This award recognizes an officer's efforts to "aggressively pursue drug-impaired and alcohol-impaired drivers." Deputy Gries was involved in about 90 arrests through the Guthrie County Sheriff's Office in 2015. Those incidents include 10 felony violations, 32 operating-while-intoxicated arrests and 50 drug arrests. He also administers the Guthrie County Sheriffs Office Facebook page. He developed and led a Citizen's Academy in Guthrie County.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Kent Gries is an Iowan who has served his community and state well. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring Kent and wish him continued success, health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MONSIGNOR JAMES EDWIN PETERSEN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Monsignor James Edwin Petersen of Madera, California who passed away on May 3, 2016 at the age of 82. Monsignor Petersen will be missed greatly by his family, friends, and the entire community.

Msgr. Petersen was born in Los Angeles, California on November 8, 1933. His family moved to Randsburg, California in the Mojave Desert, where his parents operated a general store. Monsignor Petersen realized his calling to become a priest at an early age. He attended seminary school in Columbus, Ohio at the Josephinum Seminary, where he completed high school, college, and post-graduate theology.

Msgr. Petersen was ordained into priesthood in 1959, and he took his first assignment at the Shrine of St. Therese in Fresno, California. For over 40 years, he served throughout California's Central Valley in various roles, serving as a pastor for numerous churches including Our Lady of Sorrows in Parlier, California, Our Lady of Mercy, in Merced California, St. Anthony of Padua in Fresno, and as the Executive Director for the California Catholic Conference in Sacramento California. Msgr. Petersen served as a priest at the Shrine of St. Therese until his retirement.

Throughout his priesthood and well into retirement, Msgr. Petersen served on numerous committees and boards and gave mass at the Nazareth House in Fresno on a weekly basis. Furthermore, he served the people of the San Joaquin Valley with grace, humility, and integrity. His commitment to faith and making a difference in the community truly made him a beloved individual.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a true community servant and man who put God above all else. Msgr. Petersen's memory will live on through his family and will be remembered by many in our community.

IN HONOR OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF SANDIA CALIFORNIA

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sandia National Laboratories of Livermore. Through 60 years of collaborative research and pioneering to solve our nation's security issues, Sandia's workers have focused on keeping America's technology on the cutting edge.

From nuclear stockpile stewardship to chemical weapons disposal, from cybersecurity to fuel cells, their work has made every American safer. I am particularly thankful for Sandia's Energy and Climate program, which works toward a secure energy future for our nation. Moving us toward a sustainable, domestically sourced energy supply and more reliable infrastructure might be among the greatest gifts they are giving to Americans for generations to come.

Our cars are cleaner, our cybersecurity is stronger, and our energy options are widening because of Sandia's innovative work that will help maintain America's position as a premier technological leader.

Sandia has become an integral part of the Livermore community, helping to turn the area into a bustling and vibrant center of innovation. The entire 15th Congressional District is better for it. I am honored to represent the great minds of Sandia's workforce, and would like to congratulate them on 60 years of innovation and groundbreaking science.

HONORING RYAN DIRKSEN ON BEING ACCEPTED BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL SCIENTISTS AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ryan Dirksen, of Springfield, Missouri, who has been accepted by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists as a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders.

The Congress of Future Medical Leaders is an honors-only program that is designed to motivate and direct the top students in the United States. It is specifically for students who aspire to be physicians or enter into the field of medical research, and helps to provide a path and mentorship for students to accomplish those dreams. It takes place at the University of Massachusetts over 3 days, and helps to spark meaningful dialogues and exchanges of ideas between future leaders in the medical field.

To be considered for acceptance as a delegate, applicants must be recommended by either a teacher or member of the Academy based on a proven track record of academic excellence. Students must have a minimum of a 3.5 GPA and represent all 50 states and

Puerto Rico. It is an incredibly selective opportunity, and those students who qualify for selection have done so because of their hard work and diligence to their studies, not to mention their impressive intellect.

Mr. Speaker, Ryan Dirksen, who attends Springfield Catholic High School, has shown a level of dedication and aptitude for the health sciences that will leave him well prepared to represent Missouri at this Congress. I would like to extend my personal congratulations for his achievement, and on behalf of the 7th District of Missouri, I would like to thank him for representing our district.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INAUGURATION OF NELSON MANDELA AS PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the anniversary of the inauguration of Nelson Mandela, the President of South Africa, who was a leading antiapartheid revolutionary and philanthropist.

On May 10, 1994, Nelson Mandela, a leading figure in the anti-apartheid movement, was inaugurated as South Africa's first black President.

The inauguration ceremony took place in the Union Buildings amphitheatre in Pretoria, South Africa; and politicians and dignitaries from more than 140 countries around the world were in attendance.

This historic day, for the people of South Africa, signified a monumental shift towards progress and away from hatred for those once treated as second-class citizens.

Nelson Mandela's historic election marked the end of an oppressive apartheid regime.

His inaugural speech, addressing the South African people, called for the continuation of work towards national and social reconciliation.

Jubilant scenes on the streets of Pretoria followed the ceremony as sects of all people celebrated together.

More than 100,000 South African men, women, and children of all races sang and danced with joy.

The crowd went wild when the new President, flanked by First Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Second Deputy President FW de Klerk, appeared on the Botha Lawn.

Ever aware of the past and the history that had brought him to this moment, President Mandela honored his predecessor, President FW de Klerk, by acknowledging the indispensable role he played in South Africa's transformation.

Pursuing human rights through tireless efforts to create a better society, President Mandela's speech thematically echoed the importance of forgiveness for those previously committing many travesties on their brethren before the nation could begin to move forward.

He also spoke of the human disaster that was apartheid, recounting: "We saw our country tear itself apart in terrible conflict . . . The time for healing of wounds has come . . . Never, never again will this beautiful land experience the oppression of one by another."